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Rules & Calendar

Select Committee on
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SUBCOMMITTEES:
Finance & Tax

Civil Justice

Health Quality

Comment for Presidential Commission on Election Administration

June 25, 2013

Following the 2012 elections my office worked with disability rights advocates to develop legislative reform proposals related to access of persons with limited mobility to polling locations where long lines are expected. Specifically, we were concerned with voters who cannot stand in line or who would experience severe discomfort by standing in line because of advanced age or because of a disability. We were ultimately unsuccessful in amending current Florida law to clarify that Supervisors of Elections have the authority to put in place procedures for such persons to have priority positions in line at polling places. Such procedures could have been limited (for example to the hours of 9:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M. during any primary or general elections) in order to minimize disruption. Language that I drafted, with help of disability rights advocates, was modeled on provisions codified in Georgia (O.C.G.A. § 21-2-409.1) and in Rhode Island (R.I. G.L. §17-19-52). I would support anything that can be done which would accomplish the same.

Thank you.

/s/ José Javier Rodríguez

Florida State Representative, District 112 (Miami)